

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 – 4:00pm

Lewis Recreation Center – 3110 Forest Lawn Drive

PRESENT: John Beaman, Jr., Paul Brown, Marc Bush, Ken Free, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton

ABSENT: Randy Scott

STAFF PRESENT: Jenny Caviness, Susan Gallimore, Jennifer Hance, Phil Hardin, Courtney Hemphill, John Hughes, Darryl Kosciak, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Brooks Mullane, Marcie Richardson, Jasia Stevenson, Laurie Thore, Chris Wilson

OTHERS: Goldie Wells (City Council)

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Lewis Recreation Center. David Hoggard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 10, 2007 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation November Employee of the Month, Susan Gallimore and December Employee of the Month, Jasia Stevenson.

Lewis Recreation Center Presentation

Phil Hardin, Lewis Recreation Center Director, presented the Commission with historical information about Lewis Recreation Center and programs currently held at the center.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks and Recreation Naming Facility Policy

Dan Maxson, Administrative Services Manager, stated that in October the Commission was presented with a revision to the Parks and Recreation Naming Facility Policy. Maxson stated that the policy was created in 1985, and then the Commission made a revision 1997. Over the past year this Commission has addressed a number of naming requests. Maxson thanked Rose Marie Ponton, Commissioner, for suggesting the review of the policy. Maxson addressed the revisions to the Commission with emphasis on making sure public input is received during the process of naming facilities. Maxson stated that once the Commission approves naming requests it is then recommended for approval by City Council.

Ponton added that in the future the policy will need to include changing the name of a facility as a result of a sponsorship.

Maxson informed the Commission that they will be presented with a policy in the future that will speak to someone wanting to sponsor a facility, such as the Greensboro Sportsplex, and wanting to pay us for that naming right.

Paul Brown, Commissioner, inquired that if someone came forth requesting that part of a facility be named after someone, such as the Lewis Recreation Center gym, would this type of request fall under the policy presented tonight?

Maxson replied stating yes and gave the example of Simkins Pavilion in Barber Park.

Attached is the revised policy that notes the revisions.



Naming Facilities
Policy draft...

Action Taken

A motion was made by Paul Brown and seconded by Rose Marie Ponton to approve the revised Parks and Recreation Naming Facilities Policy. A vote in favor was unanimous.

2008 Commission Meeting Schedule

Bonnie Kuester presented the 2008 Commission meeting schedule to the Commission and all were in agreement of the schedule.

At this time Hoggard recognized the attendance of Councilperson, Goldie Wells.

NEW BUSINESS

2008-09 Fee Schedule

Maxson stated that every December the Parks and Recreation Commission receives proposed fee changes. For the next 30 days the proposed fee schedule will be posted throughout our facilities and on our website. During this 30 day time period we seek public input and comments regarding the recommended fee changes. During our January meeting we will entertain any questions about the fees that Commissioner's may have or have heard from citizens. During the January meeting following any requests or revisions it will be requested for the Commission to adopt the fees. The implementation of the fees would be based on the program cycle, for example, football fee changes would not take place until next fall. New fees associated with spring programs would go in effect this spring. If the proposed fees are adopted as recommended they would generate an additional \$55,000 in revenue for the year. Fees are market driven and we make sure our fees are not going to price us out of the market.

Marc Bush, Commissioner, inquired if the new fees will be charged for events and users already scheduled in 2008 for athletic fields.

John Hughes, Youth and Community Programs Manager, replied stating no.

John Beaman, Jr., Commissioner, inquired about the differential column on the proposed fee document.

Maxson replied stating that this column shows the difference between the non-resident fee and resident fee.

Beaman, Jr. suggested noting that the column is for the differential of non-resident and resident fees as some may mistake it for being a differential in last year's fees and the amount of this year's fees.

Maxson reminded the Commission that we are continuing in the next two years with our agreement with Guilford County where Guilford County pays for the amount of the non-resident differential fee. Guilford County is reimbursing us \$64,000 for the current year and last year.

CIP Process

On behalf of Candice Bruton, Planning and Project Development Manager, Maxson stated that staff is planning for our 2008-09 budget. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a plan six years in advance for major capital needs the department has, the needs the Commission and citizens have, and needs from our Master Plan process.

Maxson requested a sub-committee of the Commission to assist staff in reviewing the CIP for the already approved 2007-08 budget, look farther into 2008-09, and six years into the future to see what our capital needs are going to be. These are projects of a minimum of \$100,000. Typically the CIP is used to set the next bond referendums. The sub-committee will come back to the Commission with a recommended CIP and then will move forward to the Planning Board then to City Council. The committee will meet around the third week in January.

Bush stated that the Sports Commission Board will be undergoing a facility needs assessment in the coming years and feels he should be a member of the sub-committee.

The sub-committee consists of Paul Brown, Marc Bush, and David Hoggard.

Gang Awareness (not on agenda)

Kuester stated that City Council had an emergency meeting regarding the recent crimes in Greensboro. Darryl Kosciak, Youth First Coordinator, is the coordinator of the Hope Project, which is a program dealing with intervention and prevention with youth and gangs. Kuester continued stating that the Parks and Recreation Department and the Police Department are partnering greatly on this issue. Kuester referred to the emergency City Council meeting and the police officer who spoke to the importance of what Parks and Recreation does in terms of keeping our young people busy and off the streets. The Parks and Recreation Department and Councilpersons would like the Parks and Recreation Commission to become involved in what our city and department faces along with Darryl and the Hope Project to see what we can do to have an influence in this situation.

Kuester asked Kosciak to present an update on this item and on what role the Commission will play as we move forward.

Kosciak stated that the Police Department approached the Hope Project and the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss a grant opportunity. The Government Crime Commission is a state body who receives funding where funds are dispersed across the state. They have recently been given from the state 4.7 million dollars to grant out for gang prevention, intervention and suppression activities. The Police Department has asked the Parks and Recreation Department to partner with them on a grant. The grant stipulates that at a minimum seventy-five percent of the funding must be used towards prevention and intervention and twenty-five percent must go towards suppression, which is the Police side of things. This is an opportunity to make an impact across the community as we are applying for the opportunity to open all ten recreation centers to offer at no charge 300 spots for their after school programs, 600 spots for their football programs and 1200 spots for their basketball programs. Participants in these programs will participate in an educational program. There are two other parts of the grant proposal, one is youth employment where we are hoping to partner with JobLink to increase their capacity in youth employment and second, help to initiate a police athletic league. Someone will speak to the Commission regarding this in the future. Our request will be approximately \$470,000-480,000. There is a twenty-five percent cash match which the Police Department is overseeing.

Kosciak stated that he and Ron Harris, Community Outreach Worker, will be going to Houston, Texas to investigate their gang outreach program. The head of their program is nationally recognized and has been to this state often to speak.

Kosciak continued stating that for over a year he has met with the Chamber of Commerce, Greensboro Merchants Association, and others to talk about youth employment. An application was submitted to Leadership Greensboro to research how to begin the process of youth employment. Once their research is complete, they will propose suggestions and recommendations.

Bush inquired as to how we compare with other communities on this issue.

Kosciak replied stating that we are ahead in that our Police Department understands prevention and intervention is very important and we have a great partnership with them.

Kuester added that during the City Council emergency meeting a police officer stated that we can't arrest our way out of this problem.

Ken Free, Commissioner, inquired if we have a program for youth who return to the community who have been in trouble.

Kosciak replied stating there currently is not a program, but as the outreach team grows this could be a consideration as part of their program as it is a need. Kosciak stated that there is a hotline phone number established and will be advertised to the community at the beginning of the year.

Hoggard thanked Kosciak for his efforts on this issue.

Goldie Wells, City Councilperson, spoke to the issue saying that when looking at the fee schedule she was dismayed that there is no difference in fees at centers. The centers serve different populations and there are different abilities to pay the fees. Children need to be in activities and some struggle to pay the fees and then there are those who have to pay for more than one child. We need to address the areas that are causing the most problems. These children need to be engaged and involved. With all the fees the same we're not looking at the differences in the populations that we serve. Wells asked the Commission to look at the possibility of adjusting the fees if the grant is not awarded. Wells inquired as to when the grant would be awarded.

John Hughes, Youth and Communities Manager, stated that we offer a scholarship program where participants do not have to pay the entire amount. The grant pre-application deadline is December 31, 2007 and we will be informed by the end of January 2008 if we are eligible to apply.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

- NONE -

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Kuester reiterated the energy that will need to be put towards the gang problem. This is a role we have played at many levels for many years in Greensboro by helping young people stay busy. Now it's turned into a different level in that the police are asking for our assistance and they fully understand that we can reach these young people long before the police will have to. Kuester stated that she is very proud to be a part of this department, proud that we

have an active Commission who is willing to take a role on this issue. City Council stated they will have some expectations of this Commission.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Ken Free inquired about the D.A.R.E. program offered by the Police Department and Guilford County Schools. Free also stated a concern of cancelled Commission meetings and wants to be sure that all centers have equal opportunity to host these meetings even when cancelled.

Kuester replied stating that the D.A.R.E. program no longer exists.

John Beaman, Jr. stated that he assisted with the public viewing of the Bill of Rights. When talking to the people there he was told they attended the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Reenactment and all plan to come every year. This is a great compliment to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Paul Brown stated that he volunteered as a judge at Ghoulash and it was a successful event with approximately 2,000 in attendance.

Rose Marie Ponton suggested that the Commission be informed of Parks and Recreation events a month in advance.

Marc Bush congratulated Kuester on her recent award.

Bush stated that we are a citizen advisory committee and our group today spent most of its time discussing the gang and crime issue. Across the community, whether it's Parks and Recreation or other groups, all should focus on this issue and urge City Council to make this priority. The Police Department is doing a good job, but obviously they need resources and support.

Bush stated that he is serving on one of the Greensboro Bicentennial committees and has been asked to put together a sports heritage exhibit and requested assistance from Laurie Thore, Marketing Director. Bush stated that in celebration of the Bicentennial the Sports Commission and Convention and Visitor Bureau are behind a new Greensboro event called the North Carolina Marathon that will be held May 3, 2008. This event will be held in stages at Country Park using the Lake Brandt Trail.

Bush stated that the Sports Commission sports facilities assessment completed in 2000 included everything but an aquatics center. The two best examples of what was identified were the baseball/softball complex, known as Carolyn Allen Park and the health track at A&T. Recently announced was the successful bid for the 2009 USA Track and Field Junior Championships. This is a major event for Greensboro and has 6,000 youth athletes who will come to Greensboro for a week to compete. It has a great economic impact and lays the ground work for what comes next in track and field.

David Hoggard asked for an update of Hagan-Stone and Guilford County.

Chris Wilson, Parks, Gardens, and Program Support Manager, stated that we are trying to see if Guilford County will take over ownership of Hagan-Stone Park because of its location and the predominant non-resident usage. We would also like to see if they are interested in Bryan Park at Guilford County in order to move forward with this park due to the limitations the city has financially. The city would continue to manage both facilities just as Bur-Mil Park. The benefit to the city beyond the administrative fee and beyond the benefit to the citizens is that the County takes over ownership and deals with capital investments. We're continuing positive discussions between Parks and Recreation,

the City Manager's Office, and County Manager's Office. Currently we are looking at perhaps bidding on Southwest Park which is a county owned park to possibly operate that park.

Hoggard inquired as to a target date.

Wilson replied stating that Guilford County Schools is preparing their request for bond and there is a concern from the County Commission as to whether or not they will allow items on the bond outside of things that currently take priority. Given that, there's a strong initiative for a parks bond on the county bond if the Commission is indeed in favor of that and if it is put out for vote I think they will look more favorably upon taking ownership. An alternative plan would be looking at ownership over a phasing of time, perhaps over a three year term.

With no further business Hoggard adjourned the meeting at 5:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation